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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**RECEIVED**

OCT 04 2002

In re patent application of

Matsuda et al.

Serial No. 09/614,721

Group Art Unit: 2776 Technology Center 2100

Filed: 7-12-00

Examiner: unknown

**For: INFORMATION RETRIEVAL APPARATUS AND RECORDING MEDIUM  
HAVING AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL PROGRAM RECORDED**

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 through 1.98 and pursuant to applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicant respectfully brings the following documents, cited in a Japanese Office Action for the corresponding Japanese application and listed on the attached form PTO-1449, to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application. Copies of the listed documents are provided herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

This citation does not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims. They are only cited as constituting related art of which the applicant is aware.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of portions of an official action by a foreign examiner in which the reference was cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. Patent application is that the reference was cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the reference, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of

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the foreign application under the laws of that country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

It is respectfully requested that the listed references be considered by the Examiner and formally made of record in this application.

Applicants hereby petitions for consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Certification under 37 CFR §1.97(e), and a check for the statutory fee of \$130.00 under 37 CFR §1.17(h) is attached.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Whitham".

Michael E. Whitham  
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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

SEP 30 2002

Docket Number (Optional)

048700008AA

Application Number

09/614,721

Applicant(s)

Matsuda et al.

Filing Date

7-12-00

Group Art Unit

1550

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

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Technology Center 2100

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
	1	205042	6-25-02	Japan				✓
	2	99-FI-53	1-3-99	Japan				✓
	3	269237	9-10-98	Japan				✓

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	1	Japan Office Action with English translation of pertinent portions

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.